



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Deborah O. Raphael, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

October 24, 2012

Ms. Susan D. Harrington, M.S., R.D.,
Director, Department of Public Health
County of Riverside
Health Administration Building
4065 County Circle Drive
Riverside, CA 92503

Dear Ms. Harrington,

On September 27, 2012 the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received from the City of Wildomar, California a notice pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25180.7. Also known as a Proposition 65 Notice, the notification described a potential toxic substances release site in the Autumnwood residential development of this city. Attached to the notice was a letter from the Swanson Law Firm, who represents several Autumnwood residents who attribute health problems they are experiencing to contaminated fill that was imported to their property during construction. The Swanson Law Firm letter includes indoor sampling results that they believe show hazardous substances are present in the indoor air of homes.

DTSC examined its files and databases and found no information about hazardous substance sites or facilities previously located at the Autumnwood development site. DTSC reviewed the environmental data provided in the Swanson Law Firm letter and used California Environmental Protection Agency guidance, including the well-established Johnson-Ettinger, model to determine whether or not a risk from vapor intrusion of hazardous substances is occurring in homes.

I have enclosed the findings of DTSC's review for your information. In summary, DTSC found that the data provided in the Swanson Law Firm letter for did not support the conclusion that vapor intrusion is occurring beneath the homes where samples were collected. DTSC also found that the concentrations of volatile organic compounds detected in the indoor sampling are similar to background, ambient air levels.

The Swanson Law Firm letter mentioned other sources of contamination in the homes. For example, moisture and mold was found within the homes and furniture of the Muniz, Villanueva, and Covos residences, which may contribute to the respiratory, lung and

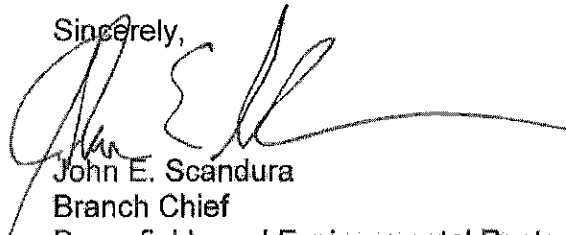
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gastrointestinal problems, and severe headaches reported by some residents. There was also mention of homeowners finding large quantities of waste such as oil rags, blue industrial paper towels, and pieces of carpet, rubber, and construction debris when gardening or digging in their yards. They also noted soil that had a strong smell of gasoline. However the exact location of the reported odors and debris was not provided in the letter to confirm that hazardous substances were present in the soil.

The letter from the Swanson Law Firm did not establish the presence of hazardous substances in fill material of the Autumnwood development that pose a threat to human health. No other evidence was provided to demonstrate that a hazardous substance release existed to warrant DTSC action pursuant to Health and Safety Code chapter 6.8. As there may be other environmental and medical causes of the health problems reported in the Swanson Law Firm letter, DTSC refers this matter to the Riverside County Health Department for investigation and appropriate action. In making this referral DTSC offers the resources of its Human and Ecological Risk Office to assist the County in investigating and evaluating potential health effects in the Autumnwood development.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (714)484-5456 or William Bosan, Ph.D at (714)484-5399.

Sincerely,



John E. Scandura
Branch Chief
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program

Enclosure

cc: Stewart W. Black, P.G.
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